

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1789
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2002
SCREENING OF FILM ASOKA
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a): whether there has been protest against the screening of the film `Asoka`, for distorting historical facts and obscenity;
- (b): if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c): the reasons for distorting historical facts/overlooking those portions by Censor Board while clearing the film for screening?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (Smt. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c): There had been reports in the press about some incidents of protests, in some parts of Orissa against alleged distortion of the socio- cultural image of Orissa in the Hindi film `Asoka`. The Central Board of Film Certification has informed that it did not find anything objectionable in the film especially as the film contains the caption that `the film is a history mixed with fiction`.